What Parents Should Know About STAAR Online Testing

TEA — Texas Education Agency

The Benefits

Accommodation Support for Students

Online testing supports students efficiently. Designated supports, which include text-to-speech and content and language supports, cannot be replicated with paper tests in a standardized way. These built-in components provide individualized supports based on student needs while requiring less test administrator involvement. A student with a disability that prevents him or her from interacting with an online assessment will continue to be provided with a paper-based test.

Potential for Faster Results

Online testing potentially allows for teachers and students to receive test scores earlier, allowing for more timely teacher and student reflection.

Promotes Innovation in Assessments

Online testing allows for the continued exploration of new question types and assessment designs that support students and their needs. Read about TEA's other assessment-related initiatives.

Flexible Scheduling

Often, online testing occurs within an extended testing window, allowing districts to flexibly schedule testing with minimal impact to student instruction. Because paper check-in of materials is reduced, students can maximize test time within a given session.

The FAQs

Other than STAAR, what assessment programs in Texas offer online testing?

In 2004, Texas introduced Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) to assess the progress that English learners make in learning the English language. Currently ~100% of TELPAS tests are administered online with 1.5 million submissions annually.

How can I help my students become more familiar with the online testing platform before testing online?

It is recommended that campuses help students gain exposure to technological devices and familiarity with the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) online testing platform before test day. The public can become familiar with test navigation and tools through STAAR online practice tests, which features previously released STAAR tests across grades and titles. Accessibility features are available within the testing platform, as well as the option to activate designated supports such as content and language supports and text-to-speech.

Students can also prepare for online testing by taking the STAAR Interim Assessments, formative assessments created using the Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR), and optional Beginning-of-Year (BOY) assessments. These assessments are all administered on the same platform as STAAR and enable students to interact with the full range of the system's tools, engage with assigned accommodations, and answer field-tested STAAR questions aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Because these assessments are administered online, districts receive reporting within minutes of a student's test submission.